

### **REMARKS**

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of March 25, 2008 is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claims 1-8, 20 and 72-74 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 9-15 and 23-71 are currently pending in the application. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

On pages 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8, 20 and 72-74 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the following: claims 1-43 of U.S. Patent No. 6,602,396 (hereinafter '396); claims 1-11 of U.S. Patent No. 6,368,493 (hereinafter '493); claims 1-42 of U.S. Patent No. 6,875,335 (hereinafter '335); and claims 1-18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,743,349 (hereinafter '349). In each of the rejections, the Examiner indicated that although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claims of the present application are fully encompassed by the claims of the prior patents.

However, as indicated above, claims 1-8, 20 and 72-74 have been cancelled by this Amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's double patenting rejections are rendered moot.

Therefore, as all of the rejected claims have been cancelled, it is respectfully submitted that the present application, including claims 9-15 and 23-71, is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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